

Internship Admissions, Support, and Initial Placement Data

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Internship Program Admissions

Briefly describe in narrative form important information to assist potential applicants in assessing their likely fit with your program. This description must be consistent with the program's policies on intern selection and practicum and academic preparation requirements:

The VAEKHCS model for psychology training is competency based within a scientist-practitioner framework. Competencies are defined by behavioral markers and are sequential, cumulative, and graded in complexity. The training year is divided into three training periods, and the intern is expected to achieve a higher level of competency with each successive training period. The use of empirically supported treatments is required as a component of their clinical competencies. The internship is sponsored by and viewed as an integral part of the VAEKHCS, whose mission is providing excellence in care to veterans, military retirees and dependents. The overarching goal of the training program is to provide professional growth opportunities for the interns and trainees while enhancing the quality of patient care.

The basic philosophy underlying the internship training program is grounded in the belief that given academic preparation of nearly a decade of undergraduate and graduate work, interns have attained a certain level of intellectual and emotional maturity which prepares them for the final formal educational and experiential step: the internship year. During the internship year, students are provided a supportive, supervised environment in which they continue to develop competencies while assuming growing responsibility for patients in preparation for functioning independently. Staff interactions with interns encourage movement toward autonomy. Interns are actively involved in selecting supervisors, choosing training assignments, participating in training seminars and workshops, and providing evaluation and input into the internship program.

VAEKHCS Psychology Internship Training Program values diversity in staff, interns, and Veteran consumers. Our program welcomes people with diverse backgrounds and characteristics. We seek to create a training environment welcoming of diverse interns and to provide clinical care respectful of human diversity. The Medical Center strives to create a therapeutic environment for, and ensure ethical treatment of, patients with diverse backgrounds and characteristics. Thus, an important goal of the training program is to increase interns' knowledge and skills in working with a wide range of clients from different cultural backgrounds.

Does the program require that applicants have received a minimum number of hours of the following at time of application? If Yes, indicate how many:

	YES	NO	Amount
Total Direct Contact Intervention Hours	XX		500 hours
Total Direct Contact Assessment Hours	XX		50 hours

Describe any other required minimum criteria used to screen applicants:

To be considered for the predoctoral stipend internship program, the applicant must be a full time student actively involved in pursuing the Ph.D. or Psy.D. degree in Clinical or Counseling Psychology from an APA -ACCREDITED PROGRAM. The student must have completed a minimum of 500 practicum hours and be within one year or less of completing all requirements for the Ph.D. or Psy.D. They must have completed all graduate prerequisites for internship candidacy including completion of comprehensive exams by November 15th of the fall in which they are applying for internship. All applicants must have U.S. citizenship to be considered for an internship with the VA. A male applicant born after 12/31/1959 must have registered for the draft by age 26 to be eligible for any US government employment, including selection as a paid VA trainee. Male applicants must sign a pre-appointment Certification Statement for Selective Service Registration before they can be processed into a training program. Interns and Fellows are subject to fingerprinting and background checks. Match result and selection decisions are contingent on passing these screens. VA conducts drug screening exams on randomly selected personnel as well as new employees.

Financial and Other Benefit Support for Upcoming Training Year		
Annual Stipend/Salary for Full-time Interns:		26,166 per year
Annual Stipend/Salary for Half-time Interns:		N/A
	YES	NO
Program provides access to medical insurance for intern?	XX	
Trainee contribution to cost required?	XX	
Coverage of family member(s) available?	XX	
Coverage of legally married partner available?	XX	
Coverage of domestic partner available?		XX
In the event of medical conditions and/or family needs that require extended leave, does the program allow reasonable unpaid leave to interns/residents in excess of personal time off and sick leave?	XX	
Hours of Annual Paid Personal Time Off (PTO and/or Vacation)		104 hours
Hours of Annual Paid Sick Leave		104 hours
Other Benefits: Interns may be granted Authorized Absence (AA) for documented educational purposes including travel to and from the event up to 24 hours for each occurrence. Documented educational purposes include, but are not limited to, professional meetings, lectures, workshops, conferences, and interviewing for post-doctoral/employment positions. Interns may also request AA to engage in educational activities outside of the VA setting in support of their training efforts towards their Ph.D. For example, interns may request that time be granted to meet with University faculty regarding		

dissertations. Such meetings could include Dissertation Defenses, planning meetings, data analysis, and other activities related to dissertation progress.

Interns are provided with private office space throughout the year. Additionally, interns are provided, as needed: clerical and technical support, office supplies, calendars, access to duplication services, computers (including software Microsoft Office, Outlook, e-mail accounts), internet access, Psychology and Behavioral Sciences collection from EBSCO, access to audio/video-recording equipment, library services including relevant computer searches, psychological tests and manuals, biofeedback training equipment, parking stickers, and on-station employee gyms.

Initial Post-Internship Positions (Provide an Aggregated Tally for the Preceding 3 Cohorts)		
		2015-2018
Total # of interns who were in the 3 cohorts		25
Total # of interns who did not seek employment because they returned to their doctoral program/are completing doctoral degree		2
	Post-Doc	Employed
Community mental health center	0	0
Federally qualified health center	0	0
Independent primary care facility/clinic	0	0
University counseling center	0	1
Veterans Affairs medical center	2	8
Military health center	0	0
Academic health center	0	0
Other medical center or hospital	5	0
Psychiatric hospital	0	0
Academic university/department	1	2
Community college or other teaching setting	0	0
Independent research institution	0	0
Correctional facility	0	0
School district/system	0	0
Independent practice setting	0	3
Not currently employed	0	1
Changed to another field	0	0
Other	0	0
Unknown	0	0